

"It's pretty quiet out there," Officer Bullock says as his eyes scan the ground and he listens to the police radio. "I'm not at all surprised, given the weather," Officer Galey says.

After an hour, the officers land the helicopter, refuel, fill out paperwork and wait for the next call.

In its 25 years—an anniversary the unit celebrated in a recent ceremony—the section has flown more than 25,000 hours without an accident. Since January 1994, the unit of 15 officers—six pilots, seven rescue technicians who are certified paramedics, and two administrators—operates 24 hours a day.

Park Police formed the aviation section in April 1973. It provides support for law enforcement, emergency medical evacuation for trauma patients, search-and-rescue missions, presidential and dignitary security, and transportation of high-risk prisoners.

Congress funds the unit—part of the U.S. Department of the Interior—that flies about 1,000 hours each year. The unit has two helicopters—Eagle 1, a Bell 412 SP, and Eagle 2, a Bell 206 Long-Ranger. Funding for a third helicopter is included in the \$8.5 million budget for the aviation unit in the D.C. appropriations bill.

The two helicopters have thermal imagers that indicate heat and help officers find criminals hiding in woods or trespassers in federal parks after dark. They also have high-intensity searchlights, which is what the officers focused on the aggressive drivers.

The twin-engine helicopter has a rescue hoist system that has 245 feet of cable and can lift 600 pounds. The officers also have radios on board that allow them direct contact with officers on the ground.

From 1991 to 1997, the unit responded to more than 9,500 calls for assistance, performed more than 2,376 medical evacuations and responded to more than 730 search-and-rescue operations. It assisted on more than 3,360 criminal calls and 979 arrests and provided more than 812 flights for the president and other dignitaries.

"That's why I like it here. There's a variety," Sgt. Duckworth says.

When the helicopters are in the air, the rescue technicians handle the operation while the pilot concentrates on flying.

Officer Galey particularly enjoys the flights chasing fleeing criminals in cars. They are challenging, he says, because while watching sky, the pilot also is forced to divert his attention to the car on the road.

"And you're a little lower than you normally would be. There are a lot of towers to be cognizant of," he said.

Most pilots and rescue technicians agree that the most difficult operations are those involving injured children. "Nine times out of 10, it's because an adult messed up. They are victims of circumstance," Sgt. Duckworth said, sitting at aviation headquarters, where a gray cat has taken up residence and keeps the mice away.

Officer Galey said fewer patients are dying while en route to hospitals because, through the years, medics on the ground have been better trained and are more equipped to stabilize patients before they are put into the helicopter.

guished group of veterans and their families at Triangle Park in the great city of Hialeah, Florida.

Before I spoke, a young man also addressed the audience. I could hardly believe that the young orator was a senior in high school.

Erich Almonte has recently graduated from Chaminade-Madonna College Preparatory and he is currently attending Georgetown University. I am certain that you will agree that his brilliant speech, which I will now recite as he did that morning, captures the essence of what being American is truly about.

Thank you. Good morning members of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, their auxiliaries, Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart, councilmen, and all others here today. Memorial Day is an opportunity for us as Americans to thank and honor those men and women who have served our country in the armed forces, including both of my grandfathers and my father, and especially to honor those who have died in that service. It is a solemn occasion, yet one of celebration, for we know that these individuals did not die in vain. You see, we find one day a year to explicitly thank these men and women, but each time someone exercises his or her right to vote, each day we live without fear, each time we enjoy the freedoms of democracy is a testament to their service and sacrifice. And today I would like to thank these men and women, and their fellows in the American Legion and VFW, for all that they have done. Not only are they Americans to the fullest extent of the word, but they are America personified. And if we really want to see what Americanism is, we need to look beyond mere words to these individuals here today.

I mention Americanism for a reason. I attended Boys State last year, and was privileged to have been selected to give a speech on Americanism for my Boys State city. Today, I would like to share that speech with you, in memory of America's fallen servicemen and women.

Americanism is what it sounds like: the embodiment of all things American, and of America itself. The freedom to choose who we want to run our government, and then freedom to call these people to account for anything they do. Freedom to think, or say, or write what we want, even if it goes against what others think. Freedom to talk to God, whether we call God Abba, or Allah, or Father. Freedom to decide what we want to do with our lives, and then freedom to do it. You cannot have Americanism, or America, without freedom.

This freedom stems from our courage. Courage in defense of our country, whether with weapons, with intelligence, or with heart, the same courage we gather together to honor today. Courage to leave home and friends to make a better life for your family. The courage to follow our ingenuity to the end, like actually injecting someone with small pox to prevent it in the future. Courage in sitting in a tin can on top of a mountain of rocket fuel and saying, "Point me to the moon and light the match." That courage explains why an American flag, and only a American flag, flies on the moon today, as a testament to our courage and spirit, the same spirit that pioneers showed when they crossed an unmapped desert, leaving farmland in their wake.

Americanism is in the diversity that makes us whole, in the integrity of our promises, in the justice of our courts, and in the honor of our souls.

But it does not come for free. No, just ask the colonists; ask the soldiers and their families what its price is. It is not automatic.

Americanism is not in the air we breath or the water we drink, but in each and every American. In the parent and the artist, in the teacher and the plumber, in the police officers, lawyers, politicians . . . everyone.

And you do not find it in a dictionary, nor in a speech, but in each of us. Not only on the battlefield, but the operating room and the classroom. Americanism is that which makes us Americans . . . and that which Americans make it. It implores us to act an not just sit idly by as children starve and marijuana clouds rise. No, Americanism is not in History books, but alive in us, calling out to keep her great, to keep America great! Thank you.

ERICH ALMONTE
May 30, 1998—Memorial Day.

INDIAN FEDERAL RECOGNITION ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN B. SHADEGG

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 5, 1998

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1154, the Indian Federal Recognition Administrative Procedures Act of 1998. The bill would overturn the fair and thorough process which is currently used to determine whether a Native American group should be formally recognized as a tribe by the federal government. It would replace this process with one which is politicized and would lower the criteria for recognition to the point where tribal recognition would have minimal bearing on whether the group is a legitimate tribe.

H.R. 1154 takes the recognition process away from the non-partisan Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and places it in the hands of a commission of individuals appointed by the Administration. This commission will be hand-picked by the Secretary of the Interior without the advice and consent of the Senate. These are radical and troubling changes. The BIA will not longer be in charge of a process which requires professional expertise and clearly falls within the purview of the Bureau. Furthermore, the failure of the bill to require that the Senate provide its advice and consent to the appointment of commissioners circumvents the system of checks and balances imposed on the Executive Branch by Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution.

Furthermore, this bill lowers the criteria for recognizing a tribe. Currently, a candidate group must be able to trace its lineage back to the point that it was first contacted by settler. The group must further prove that they have been identified as an American Indian entity on a substantially continuous basis since 1900. These are important criteria: recognition as a tribe, and the significant benefits which come from such recognition, must be given only to groups which truly qualify as tribes.

The effects of bestowing federal recognition on a tribe are substantial. A federally recognized tribe is granted special rights including the status of a legally sovereign entity. This means that the tribe may no longer be sued by individuals without the tribe's consent and thus takes away the individual's right to obtain legal redress from the tribe. Sovereign status

A TRIBUTE TO OUR NATION'S VETERANS

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 1998

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, last Memorial Day I gave an address before a distin-

also allows tribes to avoid collecting state sales taxes on gasoline and other goods: a problem faced by my state of Arizona and many other states. Furthermore, federally recognized tribes are entitled to benefits which are not available to non-Indians including increased funding for medical care and education.

The most troubling effect of federal recognition is that it allows the tribe to apply to conduct gambling on tribal lands under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA). Congress has chosen, through IGRA and other laws, to tightly control gambling because we recognize that it often leads to problems with gambling addiction, increased crime, and disfunction within families. Few of us want to see a proliferation of new casinos, yet this is a likely result of recognizing new tribes since few tribes can resist the lure of the quick and easy profits to be made from casino ownership. While IGRA does act as a safeguard, the most effective way of limiting the number is to limit the number of new, unqualified tribes.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE JOSEPH M. MCDADE, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 1998

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, it is with much regret that I bid farewell to my good colleague JOE MCDADE. Having served with JOE during my entire tenure in Congress, I will miss his friendship, his advice, and his experience counsel on many challenging issues.

Joe unfailingly served the 10th district of Pennsylvania with sincerity and dedication. His constituents always knew this and kept returning him to office by ever greater margins. Even when critics were vocal, the people of the 10th district understood JOE's basic goodness and refused to withdraw their support. He has always understood the importance of maintaining and promoting job growth in the hard pressed coal-producing areas of his state.

And if JOE taught us anything, it would be the principle of perseverance. Winston Churchill said in 1941, "Never give in, never give in, never, never, never, never—in nothing, great or small, large or petty—never give in except to convictions of honour and good sense." JOE never gave in and in the end success was the outcome.

I have valued JOE's role on the Appropriations Committee and his ability to guide complicated and controversial legislation through the House. He understands the need to exercise good oversight of government programs.

JOE brought a thoughtfulness to government which is not always plentiful here, nor even in high demand at times. But it was this thoughtfulness which endeared him to many of us. I wish him well in his future outside of Congress. May he enjoy all that life has to offer—good health, firm friends, a loving family, and the joy of watching grandchildren grow.

I will always cherish the friendship we have shared as colleagues in one of life's greatest opportunities to leave a legacy of value for future generations.

HONORING THE SHILOH
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 1998

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church in Barrett Station, Texas, on the occasion of its 122nd anniversary. The church's long history of providing spiritual nourishment and community service will be remembered during a week-long celebration culminating in a special service on Sunday, October 18, 1998.

The Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church was founded in 1876, 12 years after the end of the Civil War, by the late Reverend L.J. Lankford. The first church services were held in a brush arbor. While the church's initial membership was small, Reverend Lankford was not discouraged and often reminded the church's members that "God said, where there is two or three gathered in his name, he would be in the midst." Under the leadership of several dedicated pastors, the church has grown and developed into an invaluable community institution in Barrett Station.

The next leaders of Shiloh were Reverends Lewis Chillis Allen, S.J. Sanders, and then P.H. Brown. One of the church's longest-serving pastors was the Reverend Wyatt Gamble, who quickly became a role model to many in the community. He was loved for his meek and humble ways and for his devotion to the church and its members. Reverend Gamble traveled back and forth to Barrett Station from Houston by bus or was driven by his son to church. He was never deterred by even the worst types of weather or other hardships. After work, he would always find time to visit the sick. He was especially known for baptizing many church members of all ages in the river and later in the canal in Barrett Station. Marked by spirit-filled singing and shouting, these celebrations attracted many passers-by who would slow down and even stop to witness the baptizing.

Reverend Gambel pastored for more than 23 years until he, unfortunately, fell ill. During his illness, Reverend G.S. Matthews was given the opportunity to preach one Sunday. This temporary substitution turned into 41 years of service as pastor of Shiloh. During that time, more property was purchased and a new church was built. Pastor Matthews service also included becoming First Vice President of the American Baptist Convention of Texas and the Moderator of the Christian Benevolent District Association. On July 18, 1996, Reverend G.S. Matthews passed away.

The new pastor, Reverend Israel E. Holmes, has proved just as inspiring as his predecessors. In fact, 22 members joined Shiloh after listening to Pastor Holmes' powerful message "One Church, One Body," taken from 1 Corinthians 12: 1–12. He emphasized that every person in the Church has a spiritual gift from God. Pastor Holmes has also encouraged church members to use their spiritual gifts in service to the community.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Pastor Holmes and all the members of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church as they celebrate their 122nd anniversary. I wish them continued success as they build on the strong sense of community they have helped establish in Barrett Station, Texas.

BUILDING AWARENESS

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 1998

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, it is deplorable when a woman or child is abused, especially if it is by a person they know such as a relative or friend. One family in three will experience some form of domestic violence in the United States. Every minute a woman is sexually abused in our country, and every day three to four women are killed by their spouses. Twenty three years ago, twelve women in an effort to help people in a crisis situation, established the Bay County Women's Center. These women have helped spread the message that people do not have to stay in abusive relationships and there is hope of a new start.

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The Bay County Women's Center is remembering individuals whose lives have been taken by domestic violence. More importantly, they are also remembering the survivors of these crimes and the strength they show to achieve a healthy non-violent lifestyle.

The Bay County Women's Center believes that everyone has the right to live without fear and violence. Their goal is to provide support to people in a life threatening, or unstable situation in their home or family. The Center provides an encouraging environment in the hope that people can assess their needs and examine other alternatives, while supporting any decision made by a person about their future.

While domestic violence and sexual assault is the main emphasis, the Center also provides support to anyone in need. For example, the Center holds a children's support group, parenting classes, and community education. It is very important to educate the younger generation so that they will know that violence does not solve problems. Instead it only adds to them.

Mr. Speaker, the Bay County Women's Center has been a strong foundation for individuals and families in the community. I urge you and our colleagues to join me in recognizing Director Barbara Rajewski and her staff for their outstanding contributions to the community, and support their continued efforts to build awareness of acts of violence and a brighter future for families of Bay City.

A TRIBUTE TO HOWARD S.
ANDERSON

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 1998

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great man and a pillar of the community—my good friend and former high school athletics coach, Mr. Howard S. Anderson.

For forty-two years, Howie Anderson served as a role model and mentor for generations of students at Summit High School in Summit, New Jersey. As coach of three varsity level sports and Director of Athletics, his efforts earned Summit High School the distinction of